

langages, & writen in hir owne tonge, that is to seyn, in Latin. And God wot, that in alle these langages, and in many mo, han these conclusiouns ben suffisauntly lerned & taught, & yit by diverse rewles, right as diverse pathes leden diverse folk the righte way to Rome. Now wol I prey meekly every discret persone that redeth or hereth this litel tretis, to have my rewde endyting for excused, and my superfluite of wordes, for two causes. The firste cause is, for that curious endyting and hard sentence is ful hevvy atones for swich a child to lerne. And the seconde cause is this, that sothly me semeth betre to wryten unto a child twyes a good sentence, than he forgete it ones. And Lowis, yif so be that I shewe thee in my lighte English as trewe conclusiouns touching this matere, and naught only as trewe but as many and as subtil conclusiouns as ben shewed in Latin in any comune tretis of the Astrolabie, con me the more thank; and prey God save the king, that is lord of this langage, and alle that him feyth bereth and obeyeth, everech in his degree, the more & the lasse. But considere wel, that I ne usurpe nat to have founde this werk of my labour or of myn engin. I nam but a lewd compilatour of the labour of olde Astrologiens, and have hit translated in myn English only for thy doctrine; & with this swerd shal I sleen envye.

I. The firste partie of this tretis shal reherse the figures and the membres of thyn Astrolabie, because that thou shalt han the grette knowing of thyn owne instrument.

II. The second partie shal teche thee werk the verrey practik of the forseide conclusiouns, as ferforth and as narwe as may be shewed in so smal an instrument portatif aboute. For wel wot every astrologien that smalest fraccions ne wol nat ben shewed in so smal an instrument, as in subtil tables calculated for a cause.

III. The thridde partie shal contienene diverse tables of longitudes and latitudes of sterres fixe for the Astrolabie, & tables of declinacions of the sonne, and tables of longitudes of citeez and of townes; and as wel for the governance of a klokke as for to finde the altitude meridian; & many another notable conclusioun, after the kalendres of the reverent clerkes, frere I. Somer and frere N. Lenne.

IV. The ferthe parties shal ben a theoric to declare the moevinge of the celestial bodies with the causes. The

whiche ferthe partie in special shal shewen a table of the verrey moevinge of the more signe, after thyn almenak; upon which table wel the maner of the wyking of that same conclusioun, as to knowe in oure orizonte with which degree of the zodiac that the more ariseth in any latitude; and the arising of any planete after his latitude fro the ecliptik lyne.

V. The fiftie partie shal ben an introductory after the statutz of oure doctours, in which thou maiest lerne a gret part of the general rewles of theoric in astrologie. In which fiftie partie shalton finde tables of equacions of houses after the latitude of Oxenford; and tables of dignetes of planetes, and other notful thinges, yif God wol vouchesauf and his modur the mayde, mo than I behete, &c.

Part I.
Here biginneth the descripcion of the Astrolabie.

I. The Astrolabie hath a ring to putten on the thombe of thy right hand in taking the heighte of thinges. And tak keep, for from henneth forthward, I wol clepe the heighte of any thing that is taken by thy rewle, the altitude, withoute mo wordes.

II. This ring renneth in a maner turet, fast to the moder of thyn Astrolabie, in so rowm a space that hit desturbeth nat the instrument to hangen after his righte centre.

III. The Moder of thyn Astrolabie is the thikkeste plate, perced with a large hole, that resseyveth in hir wombe the thinne plates compowned for diverse clymatz, and thy riet shapen in manere of a net or of a webbe of a loppe; and for the more declaracioun, lo here the figure.

IV. This moder is devyded on the baly half with a lyne, that cometh descending fro the ring down to the nethereste bordure. The whiche lyne, fro the forseide ring unto the centre of the large hole amide, is cleped the south lyne, or elles the lyne meridional. And the remenant of this lyne downe to the bordure is cleped the north lyne, or elles the lyne of midnight. And for the more de-

claracioun, lo here the figure.

V. The firste partie of this forseide longe lyne, ther crosseth him another lyne of the same lengthe from east to west. Of the whiche lyne, from a little crospe H in the bordure unto the centre of the large hole, is cleped the Est lyne, or elles the lyne Orientale; & the remenant of this lyne fro the forseide H unto the bordure, is cleped the West lyne, or the lyne Occidentale. Now hastow here the foure quarters of thin Astrolabie, devyded after the foure principals plagis or quarters of the firmament. And for the more declaracioun, lo here thy figure.

VI. The est side of thyn Astrolabie is cleped the right side, and the west side is cleped the left side. forget nat this, litel Lowis. Put the ring of thyn Astrolabie upon the thombe of thy right hand, and thanne wole his right syde be toward thy left syde, & his left syde wol be toward thy right syde; tak this rewle general, as wel on the bak as on the wombe side. Upon the ende of this est lyne, as I first seide, is marked a litel H, wheras everemo generally is considered the entring of the first degree in which the sonne aryseth. And for the more declaracioun, lo here the figure.

VII. Fro this litel H up to the ende of the lyne meridional, under the ring, shaltow finden the bordure devyded with 90 degrees; and by that same proportion is every quarter of thin Astrolabie devyded. Over the whiche degrees ther ben nombres of augrim, that devyden thilke same degrees fro fyve to fyve, as sheweth by longe strykes bytwene. Of whiche longe strykes the space bytwene contieneth a mile/way. And every degree of the bordure contieneth foure minutes, that is to seyn, minutes of an houre. And for the more declaracioun, lo here the figure.

VIII. Under the compas of thilke degrees ben writen the names of the Twelve Signes, as Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricornus, Aquarius, Pisces; and the nombres of the degrees of the signes ben writen in augrim above, and with longe devisiouns, fro fyve to fyve; devyded fro tyme that the signe entreth unto the laste ende. But understond wel, that these degrees of signes ben everich of hem considered of 60 minutes, and every minute of 60 secondes, and so forth into smale fraccions infinit, as seith Alkhabicus. And therfor, know wel, that a degree of the bordure contieneth foure minutes,

and a degree of a signe contieneth 60 minutes, and have this in minde. And for the more declaracioun, lo here thy figure.

IX. Next this folweth the Cercle of the Dayes, that ben figured in maner of degrees, that contienene in noumbre 365; divyded also with longe strykes fro fyve to fyve, and the nombres in augrim writen under that cercle. And for the more declaracioun, lo here thy figure.

X. Next the Cercle of the Dayes, folweth the Cercle of the names of the Monthes; that is to seyn, Januare, february, Marcus, Aprile, Mayus, Juin, Julius, Augustus, Septembre, Octobre, Novembre, Decembre. The names of these monthes were cleped in Arabiens, somme for hir propretees, and some by statutz of lordes, some by other lordes of Rome. Eek of these monthes, as lyked to Julius Cesar and to Cesar Augustus, some were compowned of diverse nombres of dayes, as Juil and August. Channe hath Januare 31 dayes, february 28, March 31, Aprille 30, May 31, Junius 30, Julius 31, Augustus 31, September 30, Octobre 31, Novembre 30, December 31. Natheles, although that Julius Cesar took 2 dayes out of feverer and put hem in his moneth of Juille, and Augustus Cesar cleped the moneth of August after his name, and ordeyned it of 31 dayes, yit truste wel, that the sonne dwelleth therfore nevere the more lesse in oon signe than in another.

XI. Than folwen the names of the Halidays in the Kalender, and next hem the lettres of the A.B.C. on which they fallen. And for the more declaracioun, lo here thy figure.

XII. Next the forseide Cercle of the A.B.C. under the cros/lyne, is marked the scale, in maner of two squyres, or elles in manere of laddres, that serveth by hise 12 poyntes and his devisiouns of ful many a subtil conclusioun. Of this forseide scale, fro the cros/lyne unto the verre angle, is cleped umbra versa, and the nether partie is cleped the umbra recta, or elles umbra extensa. And for the more declaracioun, lo here the figure.

XIII. Thanne hastow a brood Rewle, that hath on either ende a square plate perced with a certein holes, some more and some lesse, to resseyven the stremes of the sonne by day, and eek by mediacioun of thyn eye, to knowe the altitude of sterres by night. And for the more declaracioun, lo here thy figure.